

**A RESOLUTION
BY CITY UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ("DEPARTMENT"), TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A DONATION OF STREAM RESTORATION DESIGN SERVICES FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK (SERWQAN) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEASTERN WATERSHEDS PROGRAM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNING A STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT ON A CITY-OWNED SECTION OF THE MCDANIEL BRANCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management is planning a stream restoration project on a City-owned segment of McDaniel Branch to fulfill our regulatory requirement for a Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP); and

WHEREAS, the Department is planning to seek stream restoration design expertise from an outside organization to complete the design and construction plans for the McDaniel Branch project; and

WHEREAS, SERWQAN is accepting applications for water quality related technical assistance from watershed protection organizations across the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta may qualify for assistance from SERWQAN with the design and construction plans for the McDaniel Branch project,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to apply for and accept, on behalf of the Department of Watershed Management, a donation of technical assistance from SERWQAN for the purpose of assisting with the design and construction plans for the McDaniel Branch project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this donation of services from SERWQAN will require no local match.

Part II: Legislative White Paper: (This portion of the Legislative Request Form will be shared with City Council members and staff)

A. To be completed by Legislative Counsel:

Committee of Purview: City Utilities

Caption: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ("DEPARTMENT"), TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A DONATION OF STREAM RESTORATION DESIGN SERVICES FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK (SERWQAN) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHEASTERN WATERSHEDS PROGRAM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNING A STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT ON A CITY-OWNED SECTION OF THE MCDANIEL BRANCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Meeting Date: July 21, 2008

Requesting Dept.: Watershed Management

B. To be completed by the department:

1. Please provide a summary of the purpose of this legislation (Justification Statement).

Example: The purpose of this legislation is to anticipate funds from a local assistance grant to purchase child safety seats.

The purpose of this legislation is to apply for and accept an anticipated donation of stream restoration design services from the Southeastern Regional Water Quality Assistance Network (SERWQAN).

2. Please provide background information regarding this legislation.

Example: The task force of homelessness conducted a study regarding homelessness, its impact and consequences on the City. This resolution reflects the Mayor's desire to open a twenty-four hour center that will respond to the needs of the homelessness in Atlanta.

The City (Greenway Acquisition) owns property along McDaniel Branch--about 200 yards of streambank--and below the McDaniel CSO. Greenway Acquisition owns both sides of the stream which will allow us to do a stream restoration project. The McDaniel Branch stream restoration project will fulfill our regulatory requirement for a Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP). This stream restoration will require design expertise that the City does not currently possess in-house.

The City may qualify for assistance from SERWQAN--a network of southeastern organizations that develop and implement watershed protection efforts. SERWQAN receives

funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and offers assistance to a small number of communities to help protect, maintain, and restore water quality. SERWQAN will work with watershed organizations to develop skills and implement practical tools, (such as stream restoration project design) to support watershed protection efforts across the Southeast.

3. If Applicable/Known:

- (a) **Contract Type (e.g. Professional Services, Construction Agreement, etc):** N/A
- (b) **Source Selection:** N/A
- (c) **Bids/Proposals Due:** N/A
- (d) **Invitations Issued:** N/A
- (e) **Number of Bids:** N/A
- (f) **Proposals Received:** N/A
- (g) **Bidders/Proponents:** N/A
- (h) **Term of Contract:** N/A

4. Fund Account Center (Ex. Name and number): N/A. SERWQAN only offers technical assistance. No funds are available.

Fund: _____ **Account:** _____ **Center:** _____

5. Source of Funds: Example: Local Assistance Grant Donated technical assistance services from SERWQAN (no funds available)

6. Fiscal Impact: If the City receives design assistance from SERWQAN, we will not have to pay a contractor to design the stream restoration for us.

Example: This legislation will result in a reduction in the amount of _____ to Fund Account Center Number _____.

7. Method of Cost Recovery: Design services donated to the City by SERWQAN will be used in lieu of purchasing design services from an outside organization.

Examples:

- a. *Revenues generated from the permits required under this legislation will be used to fund the personnel needed to carry out the permitting process.*
- b. *Money obtained from a local assistance grant will be used to cover the costs of this Summer Food Program.*

This Legislative Request Form Was Prepared By: Kenna Laslavic

**Southeastern Regional Water Quality Assistance Network (SERWQAN)
PRE-APPLICATION**

**** Please submit no more than 5 pages for this application ****

I. Primary Contact Information:

- Contact name: *Kenna Laslavic*
- Organization: *City of Atlanta Dept. Watershed Management*
- Telephone: *404-546-1266*
- Fax number: *404-546-8603*
- Mailing address: *263 Decatur St. 2nd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30312*
- Email address: *klaslavic@atlantaga.gov*

II. Description of Project Area:

Name of Watershed: *McDaniel Branch of South River*
Hydrological Unit (8 digit HUC): *HUC8: 03070103*
Population Size: *less than 10,000*
Geographic Size: *3.2 square miles*
Median Household Income: (Based on last US Census data) *\$24,604 in 2000*

1. Please circle all the following that describe your project area or community:

☒ Urban

☐ Rural

☐ Coastal

☐ Mountain

☒ Piedmont

☐ Other: _____

☒ NPDES Phase I

☐ NPDES Phase II

2. Does your community already have a written Watershed Protection Plan?

_____ Yes

X No, but one is in development

3. If yes, is this Plan currently being implemented?

_____ Yes

_____ No

4. Are the recommendations of the Watershed Plan integrated into community plans, development rules, and practices?

_____ Yes

_____ No

The City is part of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District which requires the City to implement the District-Wide Watershed Management Plan. This Plan addresses a wide range of watershed protection strategies. In addition, the City is developing a Watershed Protection Plan in accordance with the City's NPDES Permits.

5. Would this project include more than one county?

_____ Yes X No

6. Would this project cross any municipal boundaries?

_____ Yes X No

7. Are there any streams listed for impairment in the project area, e.g. 303(d) listed streams?

X Yes. McDaniel Branch is a tributary of the South River, which is on the 303(d) list and has a TMDL for fecal coliform and biota.

III. Project Description and Justification:

What are the main problems threatening your watershed? (For example, urban growth, logging, agricultural practices). Which problems do you plan to address in this proposal? What do you plan to do?

The McDaniel Branch is experiencing channelization, bank erosion, and habitat impairment due to high flows associated with the largely impervious urbanized area and a City-owned Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) facility located upstream (recently taken off-line). To address these channelization and erosion problems, the City is developing a pilot Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) for the McDaniel Branch watershed (3.2 square miles). The City has identified a 1,000 linear foot section of the creek as a feasible demonstration site for a natural channel restoration pilot project. This creek segment runs through approximately 10 acres of dedicated greenspace owned by the City of Atlanta.

The City is seeking technical assistance in developing the design and construction plans for the channel restoration project. Once construction plans are developed, the City will be able to use an existing construction contract to implement the project. Funding is available for construction; however, at this point, there is no funding available for design.

In addition, the City of Atlanta intends to use this channel restoration project as a community outreach project that demonstrates to private property owners how they can address similar stream channel degradation on their properties and thereby contribute to the improvement of water quality throughout the City's watersheds.

- IV. Category of Support: Project partners have experience working with communities on a variety of topics. Select the category/categories in which assistance is requested.

Financial Planning and Assistance

Watershed Finance Planning
Design Revenue and/or Fee Structures
Self Financing Tools and Strategies
Cost Impact Analysis
Information on Public Funding Sources
Stormwater Utility Information
Septic Tank Funding Systems

Water Quality and Watershed Management

Water Quality Monitoring
Geographic Information Systems/ Data Analysis
Accessing Available Data
Watershed Surveys
Floodplain Assessment
Source Water Identification

Watershed Planning and Participation

Natural Resource Inventory
Conservation Easement Information
Quality Growth Land Use Planning
Conservation Planning
Custom GIS Mapping
Evaluating Codes and Ordinances
Facilitating Community Consensus
Community Education
Volunteer Monitoring
Stakeholder Involvement

Project Implementation – Including Technical Project Design and Construction Services

- X *Wetlands and Stream Restoration*
 - Erosion and Sediment Control
- X *Stormwater Management Including Agricultural or Urban Best Management Practices*
 - Wastewater Information

V. Explain how the requested services will improve water quality and list the specific, tangible results you feel can be achieved.

With technical assistance in designing the stream channel restoration, the City of Atlanta will be able to restore the natural channel and floodplain along the proposed segment of McDaniel Branch. This restoration will improve water quality and the aquatic habitat by reducing erosion and sediment loads. The restored floodplain and channel will act to mitigate stormwater impacts downstream. Perhaps most importantly, this project will demonstrate the positive impacts and benefits that channel restoration can have in addressing stream segments which are non-compliant with sediment-based biota TMDLs.

VI. What resources can your community, partners, and your organization bring to this project and how will they help ensure success? (Include a rough estimate of overall project cost, indicating any matching funds/resources, and partners that the community can provide.)

Staff Resources:

The City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, Bureau of Watershed Protection is staffed with experienced watershed planners, geologists, biologists, and landscape architects who are committed to improving Atlanta's watersheds. The Department plans to develop and implement WIPs, for all watersheds within the City, and would like to use the McDaniel Branch stream channel restoration project as a pilot demonstration of what is expected to be a highly effective Best Management Practice (BMP).

The City of Atlanta employs staff members who inspect the City-owned greenspace, including the McDaniel Branch streambank, two times per year. To ensure success of the project, the City plans to incorporate monitoring of the stream channel restoration into these inspections.

Land Resources:

We have chosen the McDaniel Branch as our pilot project because of its feasibility (City ownership) and the educational opportunities for the project to raise community awareness of stormwater impacts in urban watersheds. We plan to highlight the restoration by allowing public tours, distributing "how-to" guidance to private land owners, adding project information and photographs to our website, and posting educational signage promoting the importance of watershed stewardship.

Informational Resources:

The City of Atlanta has a large amount of data on the McDaniel Branch watershed including impervious areas, land use, historic water quality data, aerial photography, stormwater infrastructure, and topography (2' contours). The City employs a staff of field inspectors who can potentially be accessed to collect other data as necessary.

Funding:

The City of Atlanta has funds available for both the planning phase and the construction phase of the McDaniel Branch channel restoration project, but we lack design funding and in-house design expertise. We are requesting support from SERWQAN for the design phase of the project and help in showcasing an on-the-ground watershed improvement project.

Rough Estimate of Overall Project Cost:

Construction is estimated to cost between \$300 and \$350 per linear foot. The City has already committed \$50,000 to the Planning Phase of this initial subwatershed WIP, and has an additional \$300,000 authorized in available funding to complete construction activities.

VII. Additional Information: Include any other information pertinent in the consideration of your community project.

The proposed area for the McDaniel Branch streambank restoration is located downstream from a recently closed CSO facility. The combined sewers in the area were recently separated, reducing the peak flows related directly to storm events. The City hopes to use this stream restoration to demonstrate options for improving water quality within our urban core and as an educational opportunity to raise public awareness about stormwater management, streambank ecosystems, and watershed stewardship, particularly as it relates to encouraging positive options for managing stream systems on private properties. The City's ownership of the proposed project area makes it possible to ensure public access to the site for educational purposes.

**** Please submit no more than 5 pages for this application ****

TRANSMITTAL FORM FOR LEGISLATION

TO: MAYOR'S OFFICE

ATTN: GREG PRIDGEON

Dept.'s Legislative Liaison: _____ Maisha L. Wood _____

Contact Number: _____ (404) 330-6887 _____

Originating Department: _____ Department of Watershed Management _____

Committee(s) of Purview: _____ City Utilities _____

Chief of Staff Deadline: _____ July 3, 2008 _____

Anticipated Committee Meeting Date(s): _____ July 15, 2008 _____

Anticipated Full Council Date: _____ July 21, 2008 _____

Legislative Counsel's Signature: _____

sl Commissioner Signature: _____ Robert J. Hunter _____

Chief Procurement Officer Signature: _____ n/a _____

CAPTION

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FINANCIAL IMPACT (if any): n/a

Mayor's Staff Only

Received by CPO: _____ Received by LC from CPO: _____
(date) (date)

Received by Mayor's Office: _____ 7.2.08 [Signature] _____ Reviewed by: _____ [Signature] _____
(date) (date)

Submitted to Council: _____
(date)